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DATE March 24, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

****REVISED****

Man Charged with Capital Murder in Death of Officer

Date/Time: 03-23-16 (Booked)
Address: Taylor County Jail
Offender: John Paul PERRY, 45 years old of El Paso, Texas

EL PASO, TX: El Paso Police have charged the man who struck and killed Officer David ORTIZ with Capital Murder. The incident occurred on March 10, 2016 near the intersection of Lee Trevino and Vista Del Sol when 45 year old John Paul PERRY was driving a 2006 Kia Optima and intentionally drove the vehicle into Officer ORTIZ's police motorcycle while the officer was stopped for a red traffic signal. Officer ORTIZ was transported with life threatening injuries to Del Sol Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries on **March 14, 2016**. The incident was initially believed to be an accident and was being handled by the Special Traffic Investigations Unit. As the investigation unfolded information was obtained that led police to believe the incident was in fact intentional. El Paso Police Crimes Against Person's Detectives were brought in to assist in the investigation. With the assistance of Texas State Troopers, the Merkel Police Department and Abilene Police it has been learned that PERRY observed the officer and made a decision to drive his vehicle into the police motorcycle which ultimately led to the officer's death. On Wednesday March 23, 2016, El Paso Police Detectives travelled to Merkel Texas where they ultimately charged PERRY with Capital Murder for his actions on March 10, 2016. PERRY was booked into the Taylor County Jail and will be returned to El Paso once the investigation concludes in Merkel.

History:

EL PASO, Officers from the El Paso Police Department Special Traffic Investigators (STI) responded to assist Pebble Hills Patrol with a Non-Fatal collision at 1500 Lee Trevino. Preliminary investigation revealed that vehicle #2 (Police Motorcycle), vehicle #3 (Acura) and vehicle #4 (Chevrolet Pickup) were at 1500 Lee Trevino stopped at a red traffic light in the right lane. Vehicle #1 (Kia) was traveling north in the right lane at 1500 Lee Trevino and struck the rear of vehicle #2 (Police Motorcycle) causing the driver (Police Officer) to become dislodged from the motorcycle. The first collision caused a chain reaction where vehicle #1 also struck vehicle #3(Acura). Vehicle #3 (Acura) was then pushed into the back of vehicle #4. As a result of the collision, vehicle #1 caught fire causing fire damage to vehicles #1 and vehicle #2. The Driver of vehicle #1, 45-year old Hispanic male was transported to Del Sol for injuries sustained in the collision. Officer David Ortiz was transported to Del Sol with life threatening injuries and is currently in critical condition. Driver (Hernandez) and Passenger (Jasmin) were transported to University Medical Center with minor injuries. An investigation in to the cause of the collision is still being conducted.

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